(b) Yes.

(c) There are approximately 3.5 million Indians in the Gulf countries and majority of them are workers.

(d) In most cases, there are no problems regarding return of Indian nationals to India. However, if required, the Indian Missions/Posts take up the cases with the local authorities and the employers and provide every possible assistance to those workers who want to return to India.

Racial discrimination against Indian nurses abroad

†1679. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a discrimination is being made against Indian nurses and women in the foreign countries on the racial basis and they are also being deprived of promotions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have discussed the matter with foreign countries, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indo-China Trade Talks

†1680. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talk with regard to increase in trade have taken place recently during Indo-China talks;

(b) whether there is any scheme with regard to reopening of Indo-China silk route; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The second meeting of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.